THE WORLD.

NUMBER IX.

By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

THURSDAY, *March* the 1ſt, 1753.

"I AM that unfortunate man, ma-
"dam," was the ſaying of a gentleman, who ſtopt and made a low bow to a lady in the park, as ſhe was calling to her dog by the name of cuckold.

WHAT a deal of good might be expected from theſe eſſays, if every man, who ſhould happen to read his own character in them, would as honeſtly acknowledge it as this gentleman! But it is the misfortune of general ſatire, that few perſons will apply it to themſelves,

ſelves, while they have the comfort of thinking that it will fit others as well. It is therefore, I am afraid, only furniſhing bad people with ſcandal againſt their neighbours: for every man flatters himſelf, that he has the art of playing the fool or knave ſo very ſecretly, that, though he ſees plainly how all elſe are employed, no mortal can have the cunning to find out him.

THUS a gentleman told me yeſterday, "That he "was very glad to ſee a particular acquaintance of his "expoſed in the third number of the WORLD. The "parſon who wrote that letter, continued he, was de- "termined to ſpeak plainly; for the character of my "friend was ſo ſtrongly marked, that it was impoſſible "to miſtake it." He then proceeded to inform me that he had read Seneca, by obſerving, "That there ſhould "be no mixture of ſeverity or reproof in the obligations "we confer; on the contrary, if there ſhould be only "occaſion for the gentleſt admonition, it ought to be "deferred to another ſeaſon; for men, added he, are "much more apt to remember injuries than benefits; "and it is enough if they forgive an obligation that "has the nature of an offence."

MY reader may, poſſibly, be ſurprized, when I tell him, that the man who could commit to memory theſe maxims of Seneca, and who could rejoice to ſee ſuch a character expoſed as the curate's friend in my third paper, is an old batchelor with an eſtate of three thouſand pounds a year, and fifty thouſand in ready money; who never was known to lend a guinea in his life, without making the borrower more miſerable by the benefit than he had been before by his wants. But it is the peculiar talent of this gentleman to wound himſelf by proxy, or (in the ſportſman's phraſe) to knock himſelf down by

by the recoiling of his own gun. I remember he told me ſome time ago, after having harangued very learnedly upon the deteſtable ſin of Avarice, "That "the common people of a certain county in Eng- "land were the moſt covetous and brutal in the whole "world. I will give you an inſtance, ſays he. About "three years ago, by a very odd accident, I fell into a "well in that county, and was abſolutely within a few "minutes of periſhing, before I could prevail on an un- "conſcionable dog of a labourer, who happened to be "within hearing of my cries, to help me out for half a "crown. The fellow was ſo rapacious as to inſiſt upon "a crown for above a quarter of an hour; and I verily "believe he would not have abated me a ſingle farthing, "if he had not ſeen me at the laſt gaſp, and determined "to die rather than ſubmit to his extortion."

BUT to return to my ſubject. If there are objections to general ſatire, ſomething may alſo be ſaid againſt perſonal abuſe; which, though it is a kind of writing that requires a ſmaller portion of parts, and is ſure of having almoſt as many admirers as readers, is nevertheleſs ſubject to great difficulties; it being abſolutely neceſſary that the author who undertakes it ſhould have no feeling of certain evils, common to humanity, which are known by the names of pain and ſhame. In other words, he muſt be inſenſible to a good kicking, and have no memory of it afterwards. Now though a great many authors have found it an eaſy matter to arrive at this excellence, with me the taſk would be attended with great labour and difficulty; as it is my misfortune to have contracted, either by the prejudice of education, or by ſome other means, an invincible averſion to pain and diſhonour. I am very ſenſible that I may hurt myſelf as a writer by this

this confeſſion; but it was never any pleaſure of mine to raiſe expectations with a deſign to diſappoint them: and though it ſhould loſe me the major part of my readers, I hereby declare, that I never will indulge them with any perſonal abuſe; nor will I ſo much as attack any of thoſe fine gentlemen, or fine ladies, who have the honour of being ſingle in any one character, be it ever ſo ridiculous.

BUT if I had every requiſite for this kind of writing, there are certain people in town, whom it would be ingratitude in me to attack. The maſters of both theatres are my very good friends; for which reaſon I forbear to ſay, that half the comedies in their catalogue ought to be damned for wickedneſs and indecency. But I not only keep this to myſelf, but have alſo been at great trouble and pains to ſuppreſs a paſſage bearing very hard againſt them in a book, which will ſpeedily be publiſhed, called the PROGRESS OF WIT. The author of this book, who, luckily for the theatres, happens to be a particular friend of mine, is a very great joker; and, as I often tell him, does a vaſt deal of miſchief, without ſeeming to intend it. The paſſage which I prevailed with him to ſuppreſs, ſtood at the beginning of the thirteenth chapter of his book, and was exactly as follows.

"AS it was now clear to all people of faſhion that "men had no ſouls, the buſineſs of life was pleaſure "and amuſement; and he that could beſt adminiſter "to theſe two, was the moſt uſeful member of ſociety. "From hence aroſe thoſe numerous places of reſort and "recreation, which men of narrow and ſplenetic minds "have called the peſts of the public. The moſt conſi-"derable of which places, and which are at this day in "the higheſt reputation, were the BAGNIO's and the

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" THEATRES. The BAGNIO's were conſtantly under " the direction of diſcreet and venerable matrons, who " had paſſed their youth in the practice of thoſe exer- " ciſes, which they were now teaching to their daugh- " ters; while the management of the THEATRES was " the province of the men. The natural connection " between theſe houſes made it convenient that they " ſhould be erected in the neighbourhood of each " other; and indeed the harmony ſubſiſting between " them has inclined many people to think that the " profits of both were divided equally by each. But " I have always conſidered them as only playing into " one another's hands, without any nearer affinity than " that of the ſchools of Weſtminſter and Eton to the " univerſities of Oxford and Cambridge. At the PLAY- " HOUSE young gentlemen and ladies were inſtructed by " an Etheridge, a Wycherley, a Congreve and a Van- " brugh, in the rudiments of that ſcience which they " were to perfect at the BAGNIO, under a Needham, a " Haywood, a Haddock and a Roberts."

THUS much had my friend, in his PROGRESS OF WIT, thought proper to obſerve upon the looſeneſs of the ſtage. But as the whole paſſage is ſuppreſſed, the managers will have nothing to fear from the publication of that performance.

IT were to be wiſhed, indeed, that thoſe gentlemen would have done entirely both with tragedy and comedy, and reſolve at once to entertain the town only with PANTOMIME. That greater advantages would accrue from it, is beyond diſpute; people of taſte and faſhion having already given ſufficient proof that they think it the higheſt entertainment the ſtage is capable of affording: the moſt innocent, we are ſure it is; for

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